



City of HEDWIG VILLAGE

Newsletter

www.hedwigtx.gov

Fall 2023

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Mayor Tom Jinks
- Councilmember Patrick J. Breckon
- Councilmember Scott Davis
- Councilmember Shirley Rouse
- Councilmember Clay Trozzo
- Councilmember Matt Woodruff

City Administrator Wendy Baimbridge
wbaimbridge@hedwigtx.gov

Chief of Police David Gott
DGott@hedwigtx.gov

OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday -Thursday
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday

CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL

COURT 713-465-6009

POLICE DEPT. 713-461-4797

WEBSITE www.hedwigtx.gov

Phone Numbers

- Village Fire Department.....713-468-7941
- Memorial Water Authority.....713-465-8318
- Spring Branch Tax Office.....713-251-7960
- Spring Branch Admin.....713-464-1511
- CenterPoint (power outages).....713-207-2222
- Spring Branch Library.....713-464-1633
- Harris Co. Annex.....713-224-1919
- Harris Co. Flood Control.....713-684-4000
- Harris Co. Hazardous Waste346-286-4299
- Harris Co. Voting Information.....713-755-6965
- Texas Pride (Trash & Recycling)....281-342-8178

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HEDWIG VILLAGE?

Sign up for **E-Notification** on the City's website.

From Mayor Jinks

Dear Residents:

In our September Council Session, City Council passed our 2024 budget and tax rate. I am pleased to announce that we have reduced the tax rate once again to an overall reduction of 10% over the last three years!

The City has been working hard on our capital improvements this year. I am pleased to announce that the City has just completed our Street Rehabilitation Project on Hedwig Circle and Hedwig Way. Not only did the project get completed one month ahead of schedule, but it is also approximately \$80,000 under budget. On September 14, 2023, council approved a bid to rehabilitate Capri, Monte Cello, Tiber, and Saybrook streets this year.

Phase 1 of our Storm/Sewer TV & Cleaning Project is almost completed. Along with cleaning debris from our drainage system, the project has enabled us to examine the conditions of our storm sewer system. We are now working on the storm sewers which serve as the outfall from the westside to the Memorial High School area.

To prepare for back to school on August 16, the City has restriped all crosswalks.

Many thanks to our three student interns this summer! We had two incoming seniors (Bradley Youssef and Luke Johnson) in High School and one incoming senior (Spencer Powers) at Rice University. Students had the opportunity to work with budget preparation, analysis, digital archiving, and learn about police department operations. The goal of our student intern program is to allow students insight into municipal government purposes and functions. We are very grateful for their contributions to Hedwig Village!

Hedwig Village City Council passed our Fiscal and Budget Policy in July. The broad purpose of this Fiscal and Budget Policy is to enable the City to achieve and maintain a long-term stable and positive financial condition and provide guidelines for the day-to-day planning and operation of the City's financial affairs. The scope of this policy spans areas of accounting and financial reporting, internal controls, both operating and capital projects budgeting, revenue management and forecasting.

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Hedwig Village always strives to maintain connection with our community and with the other Memorial Villages. Several Hedwig Village Councilmembers and I participated in the Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2023. The event allowed all village residents to come together, build relationships, and celebrate our country's independence.

Because we communicate more frequently through emails, I encourage you to sign up to receive Hedwig Village emails on our home page at www.hedwigtx.gov. In the event you have any feedback regarding City operations, use the Citizens Assistance link on our webpage.

Tom Jinks,
Mayor



Hedwig Village Police Department

From the Chief of Police

From the Chief of Police

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle continues to be the most often committed crime in Hedwig Village and across the state. From a criminal's point of view, it is obvious to see why: many people leave valuable items unattended in vehicles, it takes less than a minute to commit the crime and there is almost never a witness. If caught, there is very little consequence from the criminal justice system.

But, it is also the easiest crime to avoid becoming a victim of: never leave anything of value in your vehicle when unattended. This includes in your driveway. Criminals walk around, look in vehicles and break in if they see something.

Please also visit our website at www.hedwigtx.gov and review the Personal Safety Guide for additional ways to keep you and your family safe. You can also find information about our House Watch Program, Monthly Crime Reports, Fingerprinting Services and much more on the website.

Don't ever forget, the police department is here for you, always be aware of your surroundings and in the event anything seems wrong or out of place call us immediately. Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns about the police department, please contact me personally by calling the department at (713) 461-4797 or by email at dgott@hedwigtx.gov

Sincerely,

David A. Gott
Chief of Police

Please pick up after your dog when out walking your pet. The City has several pet waste stations throughout the City to help with this endeavor. Let's all work together to keep our city clean.



Summer Safety

Summertime is a time to go out and enjoy the great outdoors. Just remember there are some hazards that are more unique to the warm weather.

Heat Exposure

Please remember to apply sunscreen to protect from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Remember that the very young and elderly are the most vulnerable to the heat. And don't forget your four-legged friends; make sure your pets are protected from the heat and have plenty of water. Vehicles get very hot. Remember to get in the habit of checking back seats when you exit your vehicle. You don't want to forget anything of value in the back seat, especially children. More on warm weather safety can be found on the National Weather Service website.

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>

Bugs

Insect repellent, long sleeve shirts, long pants are the best protection from mosquitoes if you can't avoid them. Mosquitos can transmit an array of diseases. The CDC has a website specific to mosquitos.

www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/index

Pool and Water Safety

There is nothing better than jumping into a cool pool or lake on a hot day. Austin's Barton Springs comes to mind. We don't want a great day at the pool to end in tragedy. Please be vigilant to those fast young ones. Children have a way of disappearing out of our sight quickly. Adults also need to be responsible around water. If you are going to drink, then be responsible. Everyone depends on it. More information is available from the American Red Cross.

www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/home-pool-safety

HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER AND BE SAFE!

Howard Miller

Fire Chief

Memorial Villages Water

Stage Two Watering Restrictions

MVWA is moving to Stage 2 Watering Restrictions effective August 27, 2023, due to extremely high daily irrigation demand. Please note the new restrictions below:

- Outdoor watering hours will be limited to between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated days.
 - Addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday.
 - Addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
 - No watering on Sundays
- The use of water to wash down personal property is limited to between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on designated days.
- Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket, or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- Filling of all new and existing pools, hot tubs, wading pools is prohibited except on designated watering days.

Please adjust irrigation schedules to follow this new guideline.

Contact our offices at 713-465-8318 with any questions on the above topic or if you need assistance.

Memorial Villages Water Authority



Many thanks to The Parks and Beautification Committee for the wonderful and colorful landscaping addition at City Hall! We now have landscaping that will last throughout all seasons to welcome our visitors!

Streets and Drainage Committee

The Streets and Drainage Committee continues to seek resident input about the city's infrastructure programs.

Roadway rehabilitation work has been substantially completed on Hedwig Circle and Hedwig Way, with some additional work in the cul-de-sacs to be complete with cooler temperatures in October. The remainder of the 2023 Capital Improvement Funds are planned to be spent on roadway rehabilitation for the Capri, Monte Cello, Tiber and Saybrook streets. The TV and cleanout program for the west side storm sewers has been completed and the final report is being completed by IDS. The interim results describe several issues with some of the older pipes in that area. Spot repairs are being defined for Hickorywood and Magdalene, where urgent issues were found. Budget is being set aside annually to continue this storm sewer maintenance program across the city.

The city has selected an engineering firm and public engagement firm to assist with defining the next steps for the West Side Infrastructure project to address the aging infrastructure in that area. EHRA is preparing engineering options for review by residents and city council. Current plans are for Holloway Consulting to assist the city in hosting a public meeting on October 19, 2023 to begin at 6:00 p.m. to obtain resident input.

The streets and drainage committee is comprised of interested residents: City Councilmembers Patrick Breckon and Shirley Rouse, Gary Schenk, Harry Craig, DuVal Dickey, and Taras Makogan. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact city hall. Committee meetings are posted on the city calendar and are open for the public.

You can help with stormwater in the city by maintaining permeable ground on your property, planting trees to help retain stormwater, clearing and avoiding any blockage of the storm sewer drain inlets.

Thanks for your interest, and please contact us with any questions.

-Councilmember Shirley Rouse

Parks and Beautification Committee

The Parks and Beautification Committee has been busy keeping up with watering during an extremely hot summer. We are looking forward to cooler temperatures when we can install trees in the fall. Several locations are being considered.

Recycle Day will be October 28. We will be giving away free trees. Hope to see you there!

Kathryn Schenk

Parks and Beautification, Chairperson

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been very active over the summer advancing our priorities. Our primary goal for 2023 has been to develop a comprehensive design guide. This design guide will outline concrete guidelines that govern our commercial district. So far we have completed an initial draft and are working on final comments and edits. We hope to complete our work by the fall and advance the design guide to the City Council. We are excited that the City Council has encouraged our plans and we look forward to working with them to pass this priority.

Creating design guidelines will remove uncertainty around the redevelopment of older buildings and outline the long-term growth plans for our city. We have heard from many people looking to invest in Hedwig Village that it's simply too difficult due to the lack of clear development rules. This will clear up the confusion and bring additional capital investment into our city. If properly implemented, these design guidelines will help spur economic investment which will increase city revenues and deliver a family friendly pedestrian environment for our community.

Looking forward, we will have monthly public meetings to give all citizens the opportunity to hear about the plans and give their feedback. I encourage anyone that may be interested to reach out directly to me if you have any comments or would like to attend any meetings.

Pete Sanborn

Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman

Police Department News

Basic Life Support Training

In our continued effort to better serve our residents, we have now certified every officer in Basic Life Support. This is in addition to all other first aid training they have already received. While we have a great ambulance service with an incredible response time, our officers are dispatched and often arrive first at medical calls for service. Completing this certification will better enable our officers to provide critical lifesaving care until the paramedics arrive.

We want to thank the Memorial Villages Police Department and MVPD Officer Monica Vasquez for providing this valuable training.



L-R: Captain Warner, Sgt Packard, Officer Schulgen, Officer Alford, Chief Gott



L-R: Sgt Packard, Officer Bissett

Arbor Day Celebration
10 AM, Friday November 3rd
Hedwig Park, 930 Corbindale Road

You are invited to join Hedwig Village's first Texas Arbor Day celebration and tree giveaway on November 3rd in the Park. We'll host a tree dedication and an informational speaker starting at 10 AM. Children attending will receive their own Lil' Gardener starter kit.

The City will dedicate four new Oak trees purchased with a grant from the Garden Club of Houston.



Skip Richter, the new host of the GardenLine radio show every weekend on KTRH 740 AM, will be speaking about "Success with Trees: Selection, Planting, & Summer Care". Skip has a master's degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M University, and has served as a county horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension for 34 years in Montgomery, Travis, Harris, and Brazos Counties. He has served as the National Gardening Association's regional horticulturist for the southeastern U.S. and is a contributing editor to Texas Gardener magazine. His "Gardening with Skip" YouTube channel features over 120 brief gardening videos.

Donations, Shredding, & Rx Disposal

Saturday, October 28th - 8am-Noon

Hedwig Village City Hall Parking Lot - 955 Piney Point, Hedwig Village, TX 77024

Trees: Trees for Houston will be providing trees for residents. Quantities are limited so please come early.

Recycle: Computers/laptops, printers, monitors, flat panel TVs (up to 55"), TVs (up to 36"), phones, power cords/cables, VCR/DVD players, mice/keyboards.

Donations: Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) will be here to accept gently used clothing, toys, household items, and furniture.

Shred: Pioneer will be here to shred your old paper documents. No cardboard.

Rx Disposal: Have any old medications? Hedwig Village Police Department will be onsite to take your no longer needed medications and properly dispose of them. *(Pill form medication only. No liquids. All medication must be removed from packaging and containers)*

Thank you, Parks and Beautification Committee, for contacting Trees for Houston for the tree donation.

**For more information, please call 713-465-6009 or visit www.hedwigtx.gov
for acceptable/nonacceptable items.**

Storm Water

Human activities can have a large impact on storm water. Litter, construction debris, and yard debris can clog the pipes and prevent water from flowing properly. Any of these items could cause flooding. Never think of a storm sewer as a place for oil or trash. We can further reduce the levels of pollution found in our water resources by taking the following steps:

- Prevent illicit discharge – because there is generally **NO TREATMENT** of storm water before it enters into a receiving stream, any illegal connection, dumping, or tie-in to the storm sewer is considered an illicit discharge.

Examples include:

- Sanitary wastewater (sewage)
- Septic tank waste
- Car wash, laundry, and industrial wastewater
- Improper disposal of automotive fluids and household toxins including motor oil, antifreeze, or pesticides
- Spills on roadways or other accidents
- Contaminated groundwater

Additional steps:

- Contact a local quick lube, auto shop, or the Harris County Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 6900 Hahl Road to properly dispose of motor oil.
- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and dispose of pet waste in a trash can. There are a few pet waste disposal stations in various locations throughout the City.
- Install garbage bins on your boat and never dump waste into the lake.

Storm Drainage Maintenance

Storm inlets are checked and maintained on a complaint and as-needed basis. Debris collects in these inlets, which can restrict the outflow and cause a flooding hazard during excessive rainfalls. Inlets are inspected each year, along with reports of any other storm drains that may cause a potential problem.

Please report any violation of dumping in storm drains. The storm drainage system flows directly to creeks and bayous, and from there to Galveston Bay. Any dumping in storm drains will pollute our waters and water habitats.

Hurricane Season 2023 is here!!

Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, and Tropical Depressions are severe weather events that can cause extensive damage due to high winds, heavy rain, flooding, and tornados, just to name a few. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 every year.

Ensure you have prepared for a severe weather event before the storm approaches your area. Prepare an emergency kit including, but not limited to, such items as:

- water (one gallon per person per day, including for pets) and food (non-perishable – several days' supply, including infant formula and pet food). Also include utensils, paper plates, paper cups, paper towels, trash bags, manual can opener
- personal supplies (such as prescription and over the counter medications, diapers, baby wipes, prescription glasses or contact lenses, etc.) and first aid kit (including masks)
- cell phone (with chargers and backup battery) and battery powered radio, flashlights, and fresh batteries
- cash and important family documents in watertight containers or stored electronically
- changes of clothes (per person)
- Fun activities for people of all ages
- Tools for turning off utilities - electric and gas
- Full tank of gas for vehicle(s)

Ensure your emergency kit is easily accessible.

Ensure all family members are aware of your Family Emergency Plan – how and how often to stay in contact, where to meet if separated, and where to go if you choose to evacuate or cannot stay in your home.

Inform family and friends if you choose to evacuate, where you will go, and the route you will take to get there.

Prepare your home for severe weather. Store all outdoor furniture in a secure location, trim trees around power lines. Purchase flood insurance – your homeowner's policy DOES NOT cover flood loss. Contact your insurance agent for coverage options.

Have a plan in place for any family member with a chronic illness (organ failure, heart failure, depression, diabetes, etc.).

Never walk or drive on flooded roads – **Turn Around, Don't Drown.**

Power outages and downed powerlines are the responsibility of CenterPoint Energy.

If you see downed power lines, trees or tree limbs on power lines, or smell natural gas after the storm:

- Call CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 or CenterPoint Gas at 713-659-2111
- Move away, and stay away, from the area before making any phone calls

Find additional information at www.weather.gov/hgx/HGX_Hurricane_Guide_2023.

CPR Training

The Village Fire Department offers CPR training monthly. Contact the department at cpr@villagefire.org or get more information at www.villagefire.org/cpr-training/

City Website

The City Website, www.hedwigtx.gov, has useful information on several webpages.

There are several important links on the homepage - Sign up for email notification at the "Join the City's Email List" link and you can also submit a comment or complaint at the "Citizen Assistance" link.

The City History is available under the "About" tab on the homepage.

The City Calendar lists all the upcoming meetings and events hosted by the City.

Also on the homepage, under the "Useful Links" tab are links to websites hosted by the other Villages, the Village Fire Department, the Hedwig Village Police Department, the Memorial Village Water Authority, the library, Harris County, Spring Branch ISD, among many others, including the webpages of state and national elected leaders.

Hedwig Village is now a Tree City



TREE CITY USA®

An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Your resident members of the City Tree Advisory Board (TAB) have been hard at work supporting trees in the City.

Plans are underway for the Texas Arbor Day celebration on Nov 3rd and to support the tree inventory of all public trees in the city. Follow the City's Instagram page for more information on both of those activities.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the tree inventory. Please contact resident Billy Gill on his email billy@empowerment.com if you are interested in assisting with this effort.

Current TAB members are Upasana Bhatia, Billy Gill, Greg Cokinos, Andrea Hermann, and Councilmember Shirley Rouse. If you are interested in getting involved with the Tree Advisory Board and programs, please contact City Hall.



The Hedwig Village Police Department wants to invite you to join your neighbors in celebration of **National Night Out, America's Night Out Against Crime, on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from 6pm until 8pm.**

National Night Out is a community effort designed to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to criminals letting them know that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

We want to encourage Hedwig Village residents to turn on your porch lights, come outside and meet your neighbors. A neighborhood block party is a great way to celebrate. A few of the many benefits are:

- Improve the safety of your block by building healthy relationships.
- Have a fun time with your neighbors.
- Build community and increase communication.
- Reinforce the partnership of residents and police to combat crime.
- Discuss neighborhood issues.

If you intend to have a block party and would like the Police Chief and your neighborhood patrol officers to stop by please contact the Hedwig Village Police Department at (713) 461-4797, or you can e-mail the chief at dgott@hedwigtx.gov .

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



Arbor Day at the Park
November 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.



955 Piney Point Road
Hedwig Village, TX 77024